Students spend break changing lives

By Corinne Cohnsteph
The Daily Staff Writer

Their was no regular spring break.

It was a week of putting concrete blocks in place to make homes. It was a week of cultural and social awakenings. It was a time to make special friends.

A group of approximately 15 volunteers went to Tijuana for spring break to build homes for families who would otherwise not be able to afford it.

Although the trip was organized through Pax Christi, a worldwide organization that stands for social peace and justice, several people went who were not associated with it.

“We come from all different backgrounds, all different majors,” said Becky Berkhike, a psychology senior who went on the trip. “But the love and the feeling of how we came together to help other people under the spirit of God, worked out so beautifully.”

On this night, they came back together, some for the first time since the trip, to share pictures and memories over homemade lasagna and garlic bread.

There were lots of hugs, and laughter came from people as they recalled their favorite times.

This closeness in Berkeley's house was formed during their week in Tijuana.

“Everyone had a gift,” said Pearl Berkhike, Becky's mother. “One person cooked, someone else was really encouraging and one person was really tall and could put the blocks up high during the building.”

“It was like a family. I was crying when we left,” she said.

Quach, a Cal Poly graduate student in the Industrial Techni-
cal Society (ITS) found out about the project through a preview ar-
ticle in Mustang Daily.

He said that he was not sure what to expect when he went, but that it ended up being one of the best weeks of his life.

“They live so simply,” Quach said. “The first day I was shock-
ed. I didn't know their culture very well. They live in shacks, no landscape, just a lot of houses.”

Quach, who is originally from Vietnam, said, “We're glad to be here,” the president said, complimenting Kim on the beauty of the island in the early morning.

Kim said he hoped Clinton would be able to see more of the island attractions and the presid-
ent replied, “Time will take care of this.”

In their talks at a hotel abut-
ting the East China Sea, Clinton also was expected to reaffirm to Kim that the United States is committed to defending the South while urging the North to stop violating the border area.

About 37,000 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea.

During a refueling stop in Ala-
ska en route from Washing-
ton, Clinton told reporters he was optimistic about maintaining peace on the Korean Peninsula, which was devastated in the 1950-53 war in which the United States and its U.N. allies backed the South against the North and its Soviet defenders.

The war ended with an armi-
stice instead of a formal peace treaty, the Demilitarized Zone was established to keep the two sides separated. Today, the DMZ is the most heavily fortified bor-
der area in the world.

“We're working on ways not only to keep the nuclear problem under control and eventually eliminate it but also to try to do what we can to promote an ul-
timate reconciliation and an end to the conflict,” Clinton said. “If that could happen, then the world would be a much safer place — the whole world.”

The nuclear problem to which Clinton referred was North Korea's attempts to develop a nuclear weapon.

See KOREA page 6
Supporters of affirmative action come out for Santa Maria rally

By Tim Drugg  
Daily Staff Writer

Affirmative action continues to cause controversy and friction between supporters of the practice and those who want to end it.

Minority students at Alan Hancock College held a rally on their campus Thursday to show support for the practice, which they said helps ensure diversity in schools and all other aspects of daily life.

Organizers of Thursday's rally said they believe affirmative action, defined by Webster's Dictionary as "a policy to increase opportunities for women and minorities," is a good policy that should be continued, although they admit it has some flaws.

"We can't just throw affirmative action out the window," said Eloy Solares, a graduate of the event.

"All laws need to be refined," Charlie Solares, an event organizer.

"The rally included speeches by the event's organizers and Esmeralda Martinez-Inzunza, coordinator of multicultural programs and services at Cal Poly.

Martinez-Inzunza lectured about the importance of education and the need to keep it available to students of all colors. She said affirmative action had caused reverse discrimination, where whites or groups who were once overrepresented faced discrimination.

"It's true there have been abuses, but can you say that women and people of color are represented in the workforce according to the size of their population? No," Martinez-Inzunza said.

He said a study conducted by researchers Alison Conrad and Frank Launehan, Temple, which was recently presented at Cal Poly, adds weight to the argument that there is still work to be done, including conducting research to ensure that minorities get to involved across the state.

"Affirmative action is important because it's all about equality," Solares said. "We're talking about people with the same abilities who are not being hired."

The rally included speeches by the event's organizers and Esmeralda Martinez-Inzunza, coordinator of multicultural programs and services at Cal Poly.

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FESTIVAL: Free plant and tree samples were gone by Sunday afternoon

OPEN HOUSE: Hotels in SLO and other areas have been booked for months

MUSTANG DAILY

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1996

for

Image

OPEN HOUSE: Hotels in SLO and other areas have been booked for months, according to employee Natra Lucas.

"People are calling (and saying everything is) booked in San Luis Obispo," Lucas said.

"We have been booked for five months," said Helen Luellen of Morro Bay's Blue Sail Inn.

"We've had lots of calls from parents of Cal Poly students," said Izzy Ortega's manager Carlos Cantu summed up the feelings of many in the business community.

"Since most people will be on campus during the day, our biggest month is still the fall and happy hour," said Dan Han."We do about 80% more business during Open House; we wish it went all week."
The vengeance of the parking gods

by Jennifer English

Each day I wake up. I stumble out of bed. I pull the blinds open. I look at the sky to see what kind of day it will be. I determine that the sun will not shine on me today. It is March 31, and I will rue the day I ever went to school. I have been thinking about this decision all morning. I have done some research and I have found that the sun is not a necessary component for life. I can live without it. I can live without the sun. I can live without the sun.

I think the meter enforcers have come to know me by my first name. They love me even if I was a mucous-spewing freak with an ear wax problem. This is of great comfort!

As soon as I turned to the Opinion page in Friday's paper, I knew I'd be in for an opinion piece I agreed with. As a transplant to California a few years ago, I was appalled at the lack of parking space for a full-sized van. Even non-compact spaces are often too narrow to park in. The lots place rows too close together to get in a space without a few shots at them. Designers of malls want the most spaces possible and it seems they don't think about the people who will actually be parking there.

Today I'm a Volvo driver and avoid "compact" spaces. I know I could get my car in there, but I'd prefer not to have large dents on the sides of my car. Why those with small cars should get their own spots is a mystery to me. I understand having these spaces, but don't think they should be the best spots in a lot or a majority (or all) or them. For those city and regional planning majors reading, please take note.

Steve Marston
Mechanical engineering junior
edition
CoupOn
16 April 1996
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It's getting ugly in here

by Nathan French

I don't know — it is just me or has Mustang Daily's opinion page become a forum for vicious personal attacks lately? Look at what we, the students of Cal Poly, get every time we turn here. Where are the thoughtful, well-crafted arguments? Why does everyone have to rip on everyone else just because they disagree with what that person has to say?

In recent weeks I've read commentary from four different students who, basically, want to insult and provoke each other. What is the students' goal? Are they doing a good job because the Opinion page is starting to look like the stands at a Raider's game — and anyone who's been to the Cal Poly football or basketball courts, our priority of a mascot is at the bottom of the list. *MUSTANG DAILY* will know what I'm talking about. We're dodging bullets here!

The Opinion page is starting to look like the stands at a Raider's game — and anyone who's been to the Cal Poly football or basketball courts during the time-outs and other interruptions knows what I'm talking about. We're dodging bullets here!

First, some guy warns the men of Poly that all the women we know see as evil animals and are plotting our destruction. That was enough to raise my eyebrows. But when he actually called the sports fans, our priority of a mascot is at the bottom of the list. His method? Why did he use this tactic? Put yourself in his shoes.

On April 4, Mustang Daily printed a commentary entitled "Jesus freaks attack Snow White." In the commentary, Lisa Hansen complains of an unwarranted attack by a fellow Christian student. Ms. Hansen under this even an attack is a gross overstatement of the situation. The fact that Ms. Hansen considers this as aggression is testimony to her inability to tolerate and interact with those who believe things other than she. While Ms. Hansen believes she was assaulted in a most gross and insensitive way, many other people encounter this situation, move on with their lives and treat it as a common occurrence that is not just limited to Christians.

Put yourself in his shoes and in the shoes of all those who try to educate others about their ideals. Their intolerance sometimes comes out as stereotyping, a form of passive bigotry.

Ms. Hansen seemed at first to be shocked at the underhandedness the man employed. she might, if she had thought about it, want to know why he had practiced this method. Why did he use this tactic? Put yourself in his shoes, and in the shoes of all those who try to educate others about their ideals. Many people by nature are very close-minded about other beliefs and values. They are intolerant of them. This intolerance sometimes comes out as stereotyping, a form of passive bigotry. Often, people who go out and try to spread the word of God, as the Bible tells us, to be ashamed immediately and without question. While the kid selling candy or the pollster might get a poor grade, the fellow trying to spread the word of God, as the Bible tells us, to be ashamed immediately and without question. A form of passive bigotry.

Now let's look at the topic of religion. There are many things about the Catholic Church with which I disagree. But referring to the Pope as "Johnny Pope" and implying that the Catholic Church is dealt with in a way too for Jesus didn't try to win anyone over by condemning him. He did it with love and respect.

With all this mean talk floating around, I guess what I mean to say is this: STOP IT! We are all adults here, with beliefs and feelings that need to be respected. We should have left the mentality of "Well, your momma's ugly" back in kindergarten. We all have the ability to figure things out for ourselves in a respectful manner, without resorting to name-calling. It's just ugly.

Nathan French is a journalism junior and thinks you're a fool.
MUSTANG DAILY

KOREA: North Korea could force U.S. into peace talks because of crisis

From page 1
nuclear weapons capability. In October 1994 the United States negotiated directly with the North to achieve a deal providing new nuclear power reactors to the North in exchange for its forswearing any nuclear arms ambitions.

Some believe that by dealing directly with North Korea on the nuclear issue, the Clinton administration may have encouraged the North's leaders to believe that in creating others crises they could eventually force the United States to negotiate and sign a peace treaty to replace the armistice. Their aim is to cut off the South, which they regard as a puppet of America.

Defense Secretary William Perry, at a news conference in Tokyo on Monday, said he told Japanese officials the administration believes North Korea's staged troop movements inside a sensitive part of the DMZ known as the Joint Security Area were more of a political statement than a sign of impending hostilities.

"I pointed out that I thought this provocation was political in basis, not military — not leading to a military conflict but was intended to try to freeze the United States into bilateral meetings with the North Koreans to try to reach a final peace agreement," Perry said. "This provocation will not be successful."

TIJUANA: Students learned about other cultures and each other

From page 1
Vietnam, lived in similar condi­tions as their grandparents did in Malaysia. "I lived in a refugee camp for two years and 11 months under the same conditions. It's a tough life, but you get used to it," he added.

"It brought back a lot of memories for me. I know what they were going through," he added. "I sensed emotionally what they felt and how they thought.

The trip was a culture shock for many other people. Ecenomics senior Jennifer Allen described how the landscape changed dramatically from the coast on one side with all the new homes and hotels that the Americans had built, to the land that Mexicans bought, where homes were made of con­crete.

"It was a different perspec­tive," Allen said. "I didn't know how they could live there. It's like camping out 24 hours a day."

Although the group went down to build the homes, the Mexican families were involved in every movement. Crop science freshman Patrick O'Neil said the families start a savings plan with a credit union. With the money they save, they buy two bags of con­crete a week. While they buy the concrete, it is used for other homes in the community.

"What impressed me the most was their dedication to building their own homes," O'Neil said. "And not only their own homes, but the community around them."

The group left their com­munity house in Tijuana at 8:30 a.m. in the morning. They would travel approximately 20 miles south to villages on the outskirts of town. The family they were building the house for would make them lunch everyday. Then, at about 4:30 p.m., they would return home.

"It was always fun, but carry­ing buckets of cement isn't that enjoyable," O'Neil said. "But when you have the right people around you it's fun.

The group spent about two days with each family. Every night, when they returned to the community house, they had activities planned for them. They ranged from a sociologist speaker — who informed them on the current political and economical problems facing Mexico — to going to the border one night to talk with people who were trying to cross.

"We asked them questions about why they were crossing, and what they have to watch for," O'Neil said. He continued to talk about how this experience changed him.

"A lot of people feel negatively about illegal aliens," he said. "Sometimes you lose the personal feeling for them as if they are not people, but pests.

"It changed my perspectives about what people in Mexico are really up against," he said.

"It changed my perspectives about what people in Mexico are really up against," he said.

Robert Pitcher from Hun­tington Beach said it was one of the best learning experiences he's had in a long time. "I was kind of prejudiced before, but now I have an under­standing of what it's like to live in Mexico, and why they come to America," he said.

"What really came from everyone was the cooperation between the people," he said.

"If someone said to you go build a house you'd say 'yeah, right,' but if you take small steps, and before you know it, you've built a group's incredible, and you can relate it to your life back home," Pearl said.

Those who participated in the program highly recommend that other students become involved with the program.

"I would tell everyone who is interested in different cultures and languages to do it," Quach said.

Pax Christi works with another international group Esperanza, and goes down about three times every year.
ATTACKS: Israel advises residents of northern villages and towns to evacuate; Peres prepared to talk peace if approached

From page 8 facing refugees will pressure Lebanon and Syria to disarm the Iran-backed Hezbollah. For years, the Shiite Muslim guerrillas have attacked Israeli troops and fired rockets at Israel to drive Israeli troops from southern Lebanon.

Apache helicopter gunships fired rockets Monday at the Hezbollah stronghold of Nabatiyeh and artillery battered communities that have been largely abandoned by residents. Guerrillas have fired rockets on Israel from the market town of Nabatiyeh and the southern part of Tyre, and those districts have been heavily hit. Pillars of black smoke shrouded Nabatiyeh, largely deserted by its 50,000 inhabitants, as buildings burned Monday. A Hezbollah-run hospital was also hit.

Israel urged the few people still in Nabatiyeh and 10 villages around it to flee. Fourteen other villages near Tyre received similar warnings. The Israeli offensive has driven some 400,000 residents of the south — 10 percent of Lebanon's population — from their homes. Hezbollah claims it has suffered no casualties in the Israeli onslaught. There was no way to verify that claim. It was clear that the offensive had failed to curb the attack on northern Israel, and Hezbollah fired rockets Sunday and unannounced intermittent salvos Monday.

The Israeli army said several Katushah barrages hit Galilee on Monday, slightly wounding eight people. One rocket fell outside a synagogue in the border town of Kiryat Shemona.

Schools and businesses in towns within Katushah range were closed, and dozens of children were bused from Nabatiyeh, as Israeli resort towns on the Mediterranean Sea, to central Israel on Monday. Other children had been evacuated earlier.

In Nabatiyeh, Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Israel was prepared to talk peace, but would not set talked in motion: Trouses with Hezbollah that Is­rael has initiated have proven fragile, he said. "We didn't turn and will not turn to anyone," Peres said. "On the other hand, if requests are being made to us, we will respond to such requests and consider them."
Israel-Hezbollah battles claim more lives in Lebanon

By Hussein Dakroub
Associated Press
BEIRUT, Lebanon — Israeli aircraft and artillery bombarded Hezbollah targets in Beirut and southern Lebanon on Monday in an effort to ratchet up pressure on Lebanon and Syria to cripple the guerrillas.

Israel said it was ready to negotiate an end to its 3-day-old offensive, but would not initiate talks. Hezbollah, however, sent more rockets crashing down on northern Israel and claimed to have dozens of suicide bombers ready to attack.

“Our human bomb brigade is going to concentrate vengeance on Israel. We'll strike at the United States when it directly intervenes against us,” said Hezbollah’s second-in-command, Sheikh Naim Qasssem.

“We have deployed a shield of suicide bombers in the south ready to devastate any enemy ground force that dares to attempt a thrust into south Lebanon. We'll have them annihilated,” Qasssem told the Lebanese Broadcasting Corp. in a televised interview.

Hamas, the Palestinian group whose suicide bombings have Israel reeling, said it has joined the rocketing of northern Israel from Lebanon. A spokesman called on Hamas activists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip “to carry out their assigned missions.”

Seven Lebanese civilians were killed and 20 people were wounded in the Israeli attacks Monday, Lebanese police reported. Eight Israelis were slightly wounded by Hezbollah rockets.

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